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Barber

TRAIL'S END

# HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

(Perennial Larkspurs)

## *Their Charms*

"Among hardy herbaceous perennials the Delphinium or Larkspur knows no peer. Unique among hardy flowers, it is absolutely so in the towering splendor of its celestial spires, as these in endless gradations rear their tall columns to a height of six or even eight feet. Comparable to nothing but itself, it possesses a characteristic beauty and dignity of its own; distinguished of leaf, imposing in stature, unapproachable in the glistening, dazzling splendor of its flowers, as these in stately columns presently form themselves into battalions—bold, impassive, grand. The well-grown example has an air of distinction about it that is not excelled. Today it is the admired of thousands; ere long it will be the plant of the million, providing rich clouds of blue and violet flowers in never-ending variety, and without a rival in the world. Happily, too, the plant is of easy culture, succeeding in most well cultivated soils; is true perennial, not prone to fastidiousness. The plant has been enormously improved during recent years, hence has become indispensable to all who garden chiefly in the open air." (From "The Hardy Flower Book," by the English authority, Mr. E. H. Jenkins.)

*Chas. F. Barber*

*Troutdale, Oregon*

(Mail and wire address)

HOODACRES Larkspur farm and display field is located directly on **Columbia River Highway**, the great scenic drive of the western world, five miles out from Portland city limits and midway between Portland and Troutdale. (Office formerly at 1552 Union Avenue, Portland.)

Some Delphiniums blooming throughout the season; largest showing late May through June, September and October. Visitors.

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*Autumn 1926 ~ Spring 1927*





Specimens from "**BILOXI**" Section  
(See classification following)

## *Delphinium Classification*

The time has come to make descriptions in flower catalogs more understandable and visualizable to the busy mind. Too often the mental picture is confusing. With the few attempts to use a color chart as standard there has been improvement, but that presupposes the owning, or having access to, an expensive book.

After working some years on the idea and trying it out rather thoroughly in my own checking, I attempt in these pages to framework for Delphiniums a plan comprehensive enough to make the selection of plants easy and positive, as to general effect. Any variety, properly described, can be immediately associated with the division to which it belongs and its effect mentally visioned.

This framework consists, as a beginning, of twelve arbitrary, and yet natural, divisions (tribes) based on light, medium and dark shades. Into these divisions enter the distinctions as to single and double florets and as to white or dark colored eyes. The illustrations will help to make these differences plain.

Further descriptions in named varieties would relate to size (or absence) of the eye, or center, size of the spike, the florets, and height of the plant as a whole, together with the finer distinctions as to color and other special features.

In the sale of plants from the SELECTED classes we expect to take care of orders according to the following CLASSIFICATION, so far as stock permits. If selection is left to us orders will be carefully balanced. This does not apply to Unselected Hybrids, as there is no opportunity to select from them.

## HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

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### LIGHTEST SHADES

APACHE (white centers).      NAVAJO (white centers).

BILOXI (dark centers).      OTTAWA (dark centers).

Single Flowers.

Double Flowers.

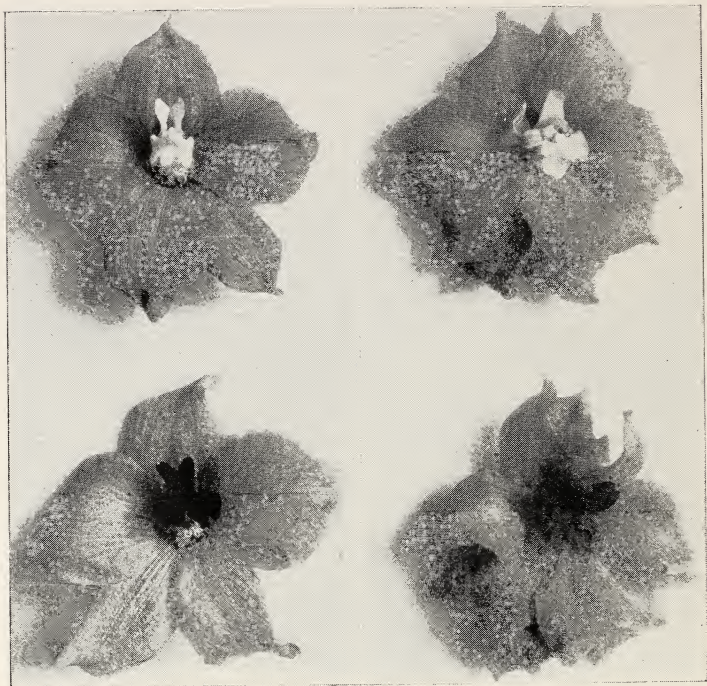
(Above are class names, not individual varieties.)

All lightest colored varieties, excepting whites. In this division the so-called pink tones occur, usually in combination with light blue sepals. In the APACHE section are found the Belladonna blues, while dark eyes in the BILOXI tribe afford an attractive contrast.



## HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

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### MEDIUM SHADES

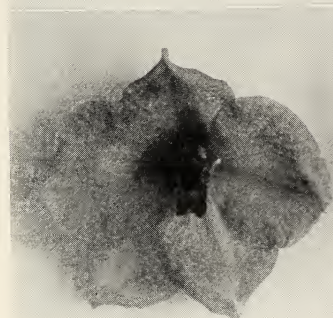
CAYUGA (white centers). PAWNEE (white centers).  
DAKOTA (dark centers). QUAPAW (dark centers).  
Single Flowers. Double Flowers.  
(Above are class names, not individual varieties.)

All medium shades in innumerable combinations and forms fall within this division, including those having mauve and pinky mauve running off into lilac markings. The blues are mostly gentian or ultramarine and some are very clear and sparkling.



## HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

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### DARK SHADES

ESKIMO (white centers).	RAMA (white centers).
FONECHA (dark centers).	SHASTA (dark centers).
Single Flowers.	Double Flowers.

All dark and very dark varieties. As with the lighter colors, some have extremely large centers and when this is jet black on deep blue the effect is of blue-black velvet. In this division are the deep gentian and marine blues, as well as the red and blue purples, the latter almost always combined with blue.

## *The Chaste White Delphiniums*

One of the loveliest flowers imaginable is a well grown spike of double white Delphinium. Something about its formation and appealing purity goes straight to the heart. Few flower growers have come under the spell of this new creation, because they did not previously exist and such forerunners as were to be seen were weak and unsatisfactory. Following the advent here of White Sister have come other splendid specimens, as Pearl Necklace, The Bride and Snow Bound, all with the luxuriant foliage of the good blue types.

The most marked variation from the pure white of the others named above is The Bride. Taken alone it appears to be white but in comparison is seen to have a delicate blush, suggestive of the beautiful *Lilium Krameri* in its lightest shadings. The florets are large and the entire spike and plant displays health and charm.

This announcement of the new white Delphiniums is intended as advance information as to what actually exists and also what treasures the near future holds in store for flower growers. In order that the stock may be in some measure adequate to the demand, I have decided not to offer any during the season of 1926, but promise you their distribution in 1927. We have orders already on file for plants whenever they are ready.



"Lake Forest, Ill., July 9, 1925.

"The plants which I bought from you last autumn are also in good condition and are in fact about the only Delphiniums that I have which went through the winter successfully. Will you kindly send me this autumn \* \* \*. Congratulating you upon your fine stock."

"Westwood, Mass., October, 1925.

"The plants have been received in good condition and have been planted. The plants themselves were particularly fine and well grown.



PEARL NECKLESS

[NINE]

## HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS

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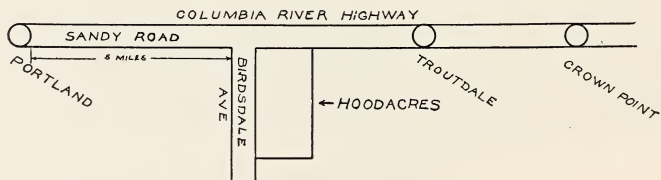
**HOODACRES DELPHINIUMS** represent the pinnacle of present attainment in these stately flowers. In beginning the work of selection and improvement, which has extended over a period of more than twenty years, I took advantage of the best that had been done in Europe and have continued to add the cream of their accomplishments. This has meant not only an enrichment of my own stock, but also a means of constant comparison of results.

A few years of hybridizing native species will produce remarkable results, but may be a long way from the spikes of splendidly finished flowers now available at Hoodacres.

The demand for **Hoodacres Delphiniums** made it imperative that greatly enlarged growing conditions be provided. The **Columbia River Highway** being one of the famous scenic drives of the world seemed the logical direction and great good fortune attended the selection: splendid soil, prominent and pleasing location, together with nearness to the city of Portland, make it quite ideal.

In this new tract, containing seven and a half acres, we shall be still better prepared to send out plants of great vigor and highest quality, also to accept and fill very large orders. Here also the conditions for plant breeding will allow of greatly extended work in that direction and the public will be informed of the new things from time to time.

No real visitor to Oregon but takes the Columbia River Highway trip and no real garden lover but will want to stop at **HOODACRES** during the season of Delphinium bloom, which extends through late spring into early summer and from August on to frost. (Note exact location below.)





## SELECTED *Hoodacres Hybrids*

(UNNAMED)

Cannot be too highly recommended, and just escape being set aside and named by reason of their close similarity to others that are so honored. They are the seedling product of the finest varieties the world affords, grown to large blooming specimens before they are sent out. Some of the parents are wonderful new kinds, not for sale at any price.

From the many thousand plants so created, is selected each season, at time of blooming, by a system of careful checking, a limited number of exceptional merit that are distinguished into **light, medium and dark** shades as well as other characteristics outlined in the Classification, pages 4, 5, 6 and 7. These must **not be confused with named kinds** referred to elsewhere in this catalog, although they vie with them in general excellence and are sold at the lower price of

\$1.00 each, or full dozen \$10.00

Also

### *Hoodacres Hybrids—Unselected*

are sold from the general planting, after all doubtful ones have been eliminated when in bloom. These give remarkable satisfaction and frequently single specimens are found to be worth the cost of a dozen. The price is low enough to encourage liberal planting. Do you know the pleasure of a Delphinium patch from which to cut freely for indoor decoration?

\$3.50 per dozen; half dozen, \$2.00; 100, \$25.00.



“Wilmington, Delaware, June 5, 1925.

“My Dear Mr. Barber:

“Last autumn I put out some of your seedlings in the open ground, which are now blooming magnificently. Your description in booklet of ‘Seedling No. 320’ fits them exactly. So far, no one in my vicinity seems to have seen or heard of these giants and they are making quite a sensation. \* \* \*

“Yours truly,

“MRS. WILLIAM KEMBLE DU PONT.”

## *SEEDS of Hoodacres Delphiniums*

One of the most exacting operations of the Hoodacres plantings is the protection and collection of **SEEDS** from prepared specimen plants. Only such are used, for many plants that make beautiful flower spikes are not desirable as seed parents.

As all our advancement over existing kinds comes by cross pollenization through seeds, the skillful preparation of these tiny germs holds a great prophesy for next year's revelations. From many reports the quality of Hoodacres seedlings is unrivalled, particularly in the number of exceptional specimens produced.

**HOODACRES** seeds — complete range of shades and forms—liberal packets.....\$1.00

**CLASSIFIED**, available this season: Ottawa, Pawnee, Quapaw, Rama and Shasta. (See pages 5, 6 and 7), each.....\$1.00

**WREXHAM** seeds from characteristic plants, packets .....\$1.00

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## *Growing Seedlings*

The seed - bed, whether flats, cold - frame or open ground, should be composed of fine loamy soil, with sand added, if required, for perfect friability, and containing some leaf mold. Late summer sowing, preferably in cold frames without glass, but shaded until germination takes place (where they may remain over winter), will bring flowering plants the following summer. Very early spring sowing in gentle heat will also produce some bloom the same season (greenhouse or hotbed). Later spring sowing will furnish plants for blooming the following June.

Once transplanting before going into permanent place induces a fuller root system. Never let the seed-bed dry out for even a moment.

(Delphinium seeds deteriorate and should be sown within the year after gathering.)



Hoodacres Seedlings in Various Shades



"Warwick, Queensland, Australia,  
December 16, 1925.

"I have had marvelous results with your choice  
Delphiniums this season. For size of spike and  
bloom they have been simply magnificent. Allow me  
to congratulate you on your splendid achievement.

"ERIC G. ANDERSON."

## *Wrexham or "Hollyhock" Delphiniums*

In 1921 there came out of Wales, to the London exhibitions, the marvelous "Wrexham" seedlings which literally "swept the boards," so massive and effective were they. Visitors continually exclaimed: "Why, they are like Hollyhocks!"

The strain is conspicuous for its broad-based tall spikes, carrying largest individual flowers that run largely to the rich deep shades, much prized by experienced growers.

Having been so fortunate as to make the acquaintance by correspondence of the originator of this strain, Mr. Watkin Samuel, at the beginning of their introduction, I have for the past three seasons been working up a stock now represented by several thousand.

Even the young plants blooming for the first time are a revelation to Delphinium collectors and their massive character in fuller maturity is cause for fresh amazement.

The illustration on opposite page is intended to represent the type and show the full development of a plant, instead of a single spike. **OLYMPUS** grew under normal conditions of soil, climate and treatment and at time of photographing was just about twenty-eight months old.

As our Wrexham planting is very large we shall be able to take care of many orders for plants we have systematically checked when in bloom, and that can be relied upon to give satisfaction. We are obliged to defer offering named varieties until the stock is much larger than at present.

Selected **seedling** plants, \$2.00, \$3.00 and \$5.00 each. Only a limited number of the \$5.00 kind.





OLYMPUS

## *Named Varieties*

Some of the named varieties grown at Hoodacres:

(Kinds in heavy faced letters are Hoodacres productions.)

**ANDREW CARNEGIE.** Soft lilac and light blue. Navajo.

**BRIDAL GOWN.** Magnificent large white, vigorous, single.

**JUSTINE GILBERT.** Venetian blue, alternating lilac. Biloxi.

**LORENZO DE MEDICI.** Lilac in rosette form, waved petals, open center, splendid spikes. Navajo.

**MARY MALLORY ROBERTS.** Soft lilac and delicate blue sepals, dark centers. Ottawa.

**PERSIMMON.** Bright light blue, bush-like plant. Apache.

**QUEEN MARY.** Light blue, touched pink. Apache.

**WHITE SISTER.** Sepals, petals and center clear white; double.

**BEATRICE.** Light mauve and clear blue, large shapely flowers, remarkable for symmetry and vigor. Pawnee.

**CALAPOOIA.** Ultramarine blue. Cayuga.

**CELESTIAL VISITOR.** Gentian blue. Cayuga.

**DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.** Marine blue. Eskimo.

**LOUELLA AMES.** Violet and blue, large center, late. Quapaw.

**PERFECTION.** Blue and soft lilac. Pawnee.

**SACAJAWEA.** Light mauve, edged wistaria blue; builds up rapidly, strong spikes, choice. Pawnee.

**QUEEN OF THE LILACS.** Lilac and blue. Pawnee.

**EXCALIBER.** Large pyramidal spikes, purple markings on blue, large brown center. Velvety effect. Shasta.

**E. AUGUSTUS BOWLES.** Blue and purple with very large golden brown center. Shasta.

**EDWIN MARKHAM.** Strong spikes, mauve, backed blue, impressive. Shasta.

**FRANCIS F. FOX.** Deep blue, medium growth. Rama.

**HAUTEUR.** Tall purple and violet, large center. Rama.

**KING OF DELPHINIUMS.** Plum, large center. Rama.

**PURPLE MASK.** Rich petunia violet, extra large flowers, tall, numerous long side spikes. Rama.

**REV. E. LASCELLES.** Blue, large center. Rama.

**THE ALAKE.** Tall, long spikes, large blue purple. Rama.

**TUSCARORA.** Deep violet purple. Rama.

**TATOOSH.** Rich purple petals over deep blue, center very large. Rama.

No named varieties to offer until next season.



EDWIN MARKHAM

### *Their Culture*

Plants are safely moved throughout the fall and **early** spring, but may suffer if moved in late spring. Except in very wet, cold soils, **autumn planting is strongly recommended.**

Delphiniums set in autumn make unchecked headway when the spring urge comes and therefore make better showing than those set in spring; they are among the first herbaceous plants to start growth. After getting well grown plants allow ample space for each and open the earth eighteen inches or more in depth and as much in breadth, filling one-half with rough humus soil (old sods will do) well tamped. Complete filling with the best soil you can provide, preferably containing some leaf mold, and made thoroughly friable. If of a clayey nature, incorporate sand to prevent caking, as much of the vigor of the plant comes from the tiny surface roots. Set plants not less than two feet apart, with crowns two inches below surface, the roots well spread and soil firmed against them before leveling. Avoid dense shade and roots of trees.

When growth first starts in spring dig around each plant a trowel of bone-meal. Cut faded spikes to prevent seeding. It is the nature of hybrid Delphiniums to **bloom a second time** in the season and as the second growth appears the old stalk yellows, is no longer required, and should be cut down. Do not force this second growth, rather allow a short resting period, then give another supply of bone-meal, being careful not to destroy the fine surface-feeding roots, and water generously. If the weaker growths are removed when plants are a few inches high the remaining ones will benefit. Well grown Delphiniums will bloom the first season after planting and being true perennials should with favorable conditions, increase in size and grandeur each season.



## *Staking Your Gorgeous Spikes*

Defending your gardening achievement against destruction by the elements is easy if prepared for in advance. A towering Delphinium spike loaded with water is easily toppled over and broken. Ideal stakes are of spruce and just  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch square, 4 feet long, being light, strong and durable. Twine, 2-ply jute, is tenacious, inconspicuous and inexpensive. Don't bundle them into a sheaf, but hitch each of the large stalks where they stand, free in their perfection. It is easy and simple if you have things ready and you will be rewarded many times over for the effort.

If not convenient to have the stakes made I can supply them at 50c per dozen, \$4.00 per hundred. Twine, 50c per pound.

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## *Garden Enemies*

Although hardly known on the Pacific Coast, in some sections there has been trouble from a disease called "blight" or "black spot," which starts with black spots on the leaves that extend and enlarge until the entire growth of the plant is killed. Also there is a form of root rot that seems to prevail in some places. An effective cure is said to be a government formula as follows: Mercuric chloride, 1 gram; Sodium nitrate, 1 gram; Water,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  gallons. Apply with a sprinkler close in so as to get down to the roots. It will not injure the foliage and takes care of both the spot and root rot.

If plants show a weak or unhealthy condition, not due to the above troubles, it may be the soil is not healthy. Try the following: Unslaked lime, 2 pounds; Water, 5 gallons; Tobacco dust, one-half pound. Slake lime and add tobacco dust, then when using dilute in proportion of 1 to 12 and saturate the ground freely, repeating as needed.

Where slugs or snails abound use plenty of coarse sand in and around the plant, especially when new shoots are coming out of the ground in early spring.

# The Garden Fairies

We like to come in through the gate and down  
the winding way;  
We do not drop from spirit plane in just the old-  
time way.  
We take delight in winding paths and flowers'  
blooming day,  
And shining water, fishes too, and birdies at  
their play.

We march the long, long, rows between and  
garlands gather green;  
We place the wreaths upon our brows and play  
that we are queens.  
We choose the colors, rainbow bright, from every  
darling flower;  
We press our lips on petals light, through all  
the sunny hour.

We dip our brushes in the paint of colors from  
the sky  
And paint the petals, hidden tight within the  
buds so sly.  
Then the buds burst open wide and colors bright  
are there,  
For we have touched them, every one, with  
rainbow light so fair.

CONSTANCE BARBER